

18th August 1925]

A.—(a) At the instance of the Government the Board of Revenue has recently issued instructions to the Collectors of all districts that a list of the lands available for assignment to members of the depressed classes should be hung up not only in the village chavadi but also in the cheri temple or any place of worship or communal meeting place of the members of the depressed classes. The rules do not require a copy of the list to be hung up in taluk offices.

(b) & (c) The Government are not aware of any such instances.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know if the Government are aware that the instructions they issue are not strictly observed and carried out by their officers and subordinates?”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ No, Sir.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know whether these lists are available to private people who want to work for the cause of the depressed classes and secure for them their legitimate requirements?”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I should think so, Sir.”

Supply of water to the Adi-Dravidas of Nanjai Nagathu Valkai Cheri, Chidambaram taluk.

* 21 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether on the afternoon of the 20th March 1925, Mr. V. Rama Sastri, the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Chidambaram, was engaged in hearing a petition of the Adi-Dravidas of Nanjai Nagathu Valkai Cheri, Chidambaram taluk, praying for permission to take water from the only tank at Nanjai Nagathu Valkai village monopolised by the caste Hindus;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of Adi-Dravidas represented by Mr. Mukarrams and a number of Padaiyachis caste people who opposed the petition were present at the time of hearing;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the karnam of the village, a caste man, was examined who, in supporting the Adi-Dravidas, said that he had on many occasions seen the Adi-Dravida women ousted out by the Padaiyachis caste people when they attempted to take water from the tank, and that the period of 2½ months from the 31st of March to the 15th of June was one of scarcity of water for the Adi-Dravidas;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Magistrate said that he would forward the statements to the Subdivisional Officer, Chidambaram, who would pass orders; and

(e) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d), whether they will be pleased to call for the information?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have no information.

(e) As the questions indicate that the matter is under disposal by the district officers, the Government do not consider it necessary to call for a report at this stage.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether the Government will be pleased to furnish a copy of the order of disposal of the matter by the district officer?”

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The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ As the answer to question (d) indicates that the matter is under disposal by the district officers, it would be well that the hon. Member puts a question later on when I shall be able to call for a report and give him the information.”

Public Works.

Damage to Cauvery bridges at Sivasamudram due to floods.

* 22 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the two Cauvery bridges at Sivasamudram in Coimbatore district was washed away at the time of floods last year and much inconvenience is being thereby caused to the public ;

(b) whether any attempt has been made to induce the Jaghirdar of Sivasamudram to repair the bridge and if so, with what result ;

(c) whether there has been any correspondence with the Mysore Government on the matter and if so, the result of that correspondence ;

(d) whether the Government have asked the Collector of Coimbatore and the Executive Engineer of Salem to report as to the place most suited for putting up a new bridge and if so, whether the report has been received and to what effect ;

(e) whether the Government are taking steps to repair the old bridge or to put up a new bridge and if so, when it is likely to have through communication ; and

(f) whether the bed of the river at and near Sivasamudram belongs to this Government or the Mysore Government or to both ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The questions are under correspondence.

(d) A proposal has been made to construct a single bridge higher up the river than the two old bridges ; the question is under consideration.

(e) It has not yet been decided what is the best means of providing for traffic pending the construction of a new bridge.

(f) The boundary between Mysore and Madras at the island of Sivasamudram is the midstream of the Cauvery on the Mysore side of the island.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ With reference to answer to clauses (b) and (c), may I know if the question of constructing a bridge is going to be taken up soon and if the correspondence with the Jaghirdar and the Mysore Government is finished ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I should think it depends on the state of the finances.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Has it been settled whether the Jaghirdar has to pay a portion or whether he is not bound to maintain the bridge ? ”

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—“ We are not concerned with the correspondence but we are concerned with what is going to become of the repair itself. I should like to know in what stage the matter is.”